

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - May 23, 2023**

1.	J. Crook - Letter dated May 5, 2023 - Salmon Arm Urban Forest Strategic Planning	N
2.	D. Guidoos - Email dated May 9, 2023 - Request for a Pedestrian Light between 30 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE	A
3.	F. Kreipe - Email dated May 10, 2023 - Concerns with the Salmon Arm Downtown	A
4.	P. Rhine - Email dated May 11, 2023 - We need a Small Breed Dog Park	A
5.	T. Timoffee, Early Years Family Navigator and Outdoor Play Facilitator, Shuswap Children's Association - Letter dated May 4, 2023 - Travelling Tots Playgroup - Request to use Fletcher Park June 27, 2023	A
6.	P. Wright, RCMP Musical Ride - Email dated May 10, 2023 - Request to use Safeway Fields July 1 and 2, 2023	A
7.	E. Cleaver, School Director, Maple Tree Montessori - Letter received May 16, 2023 - Request to use Blackburn Gazebo - End of School Year Potluck and Celebration - June 30, 2023	A
8.	R. Hoyte, Mayor, District of Coldstream - Copy of letter May 9, 2023 to the Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing - Homes for People Action Plan	N
9.	A. Kang, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Letter dated May 3, 2023 - Salmon Arm 2023 Regional Tour Follow-Up	N
10.	Interior Health, Office of the Medical Health Officers - Letter dated April 14, 2023 - Recent Exemption to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act - Recommendation to Municipalities	N
11.	L. MacLaren, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation - Letter dated May 17, 2023 - Invitation for Engagement on Policy Governing the Connection of Cryptocurrency Mining Projects to Electricity Systems in BC	N
12.	Shuswap Watershed Council - 2022-2023 Annual Report	N
13.	FortisBC - News Release - FortisBC Receives Approval from the BCUC for Advanced Gas Meters	N
14.	BC Hydro Southern Interior Community Relations - 2022 Annual Report	N

N = No Action Required  
A = Action Requested

S = Staff has Responded  
R = Response Required

Salmon Arm, B.C.,  
V1E 3L2  
May 5, 2023

City of Salmon Arm  
Box 40, 500- 2 Ave. N.E.  
Salmon Arm, BC.  
V1E 4N2

### **Salmon Arm Urban Forest Strategic Planning**

Dear Mayor and Council:

Recent densification in the North Broadview neighbourhood and around Salmon Arm in general has raised the issue of how the community manages the forested environment in our treed community. I am not alone in expressing some concern about how the tree cover in our city is being managed as development proceeds.

As one example, I thought the Salmon Arm Environment Committee might be interested in counting trees that were felled next door as a result of a Municipal requirement to put in place half a road and a right of way for future road development next door, to the west of our home at 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E.. This development might be an object lesson which could be useful in forming an urban forest strategy for Salmon Arm, possibly as an environmental sub-component of the next OCP.

In total 37 mature maple, fir, cedar and cheery trees were cut down around the perimeter of the 1.5-acre property:

- 8 mature Douglas Firs (80 years old and sound) along 30<sup>th</sup> Ave, N.E. for a city sidewalk which will just run across the front (North) of the property and end at the respective property line at each end;
- 6 Maples along the south right-of-way along the property line; and,
- 23 Fir, Maple, and Cedar along the west side adjacent to our house (11) and the property south of us (12);
- Some of these tree trunks straddled our property line.

The 37 trees by far exceeded the number felled on the rest of the 1.5-acre development site – so much for tree conservation since it was all for future City road works. With some creative road and sidewalk placement many of these trees could have been saved.

In contrast, six trees of note were felled in the middle of the property:

- 1 mature Chestnut;
- 1 80+ year old oak;
- 1 30-year-old spruce (planted by the previous owner and his son);
- 3 mature Fir trees; and,

Trees and small shrubs along the western property line, where no right of way is planned, were spared to shade and protect the adjacent property from the new housing development.

I strongly suggest that the Environment Committee look into a strategy for replacing mature trees which are cut down, often on what will become City property once the development is finished. The City might consider the "Fire Smart Landscaping Guide" to determine what sort of fire resistant trees can be transplanted (possibly 3 or more for each tree felled) without causing a safety threat or fire hazard in Salmon Arm. Fire Smart does not require all trees to be removed from a development site, so it is important to have a strategic think about how best to manage Salmon Arm's urban forest, and find a balance between forest fire protection measures and other treed environmental considerations.

If you have visited Victoria lately you will notice that as developments are started all mature trees on the perimeter of the property are taped off for protection as far as the drip line. Many other municipalities require planting a given number of saplings to replace trees that have been felled during developments. These are policy issues with climate change, water management, wildlife, recreation and aesthetic implications which the Committee might consider. Following thoughtful discussion, the Committee might consider making recommendations to Council. – all positive measures which will augment the sustainability of Salmon Arm.

Another issue to consider. If trees are felled from lands which are intended for Municipal roads in new developments, should the City not be responsible for taking measures to replace them as part of the urban forest along City roadways and on City lands? Ideally, developers might offer trees to their clients on the lots they sell to add to attractiveness of the lots.

On the lighter side, the only advantage of having the trees down is a better view of downtown Salmon Arm at night and the Salmon River Valley. The crow who used to roost on a big Douglas fir which was felled has been hanging around our fence a lot, making odd noises and looking at me – makes me think of Alfred Hitchcock for some reason...

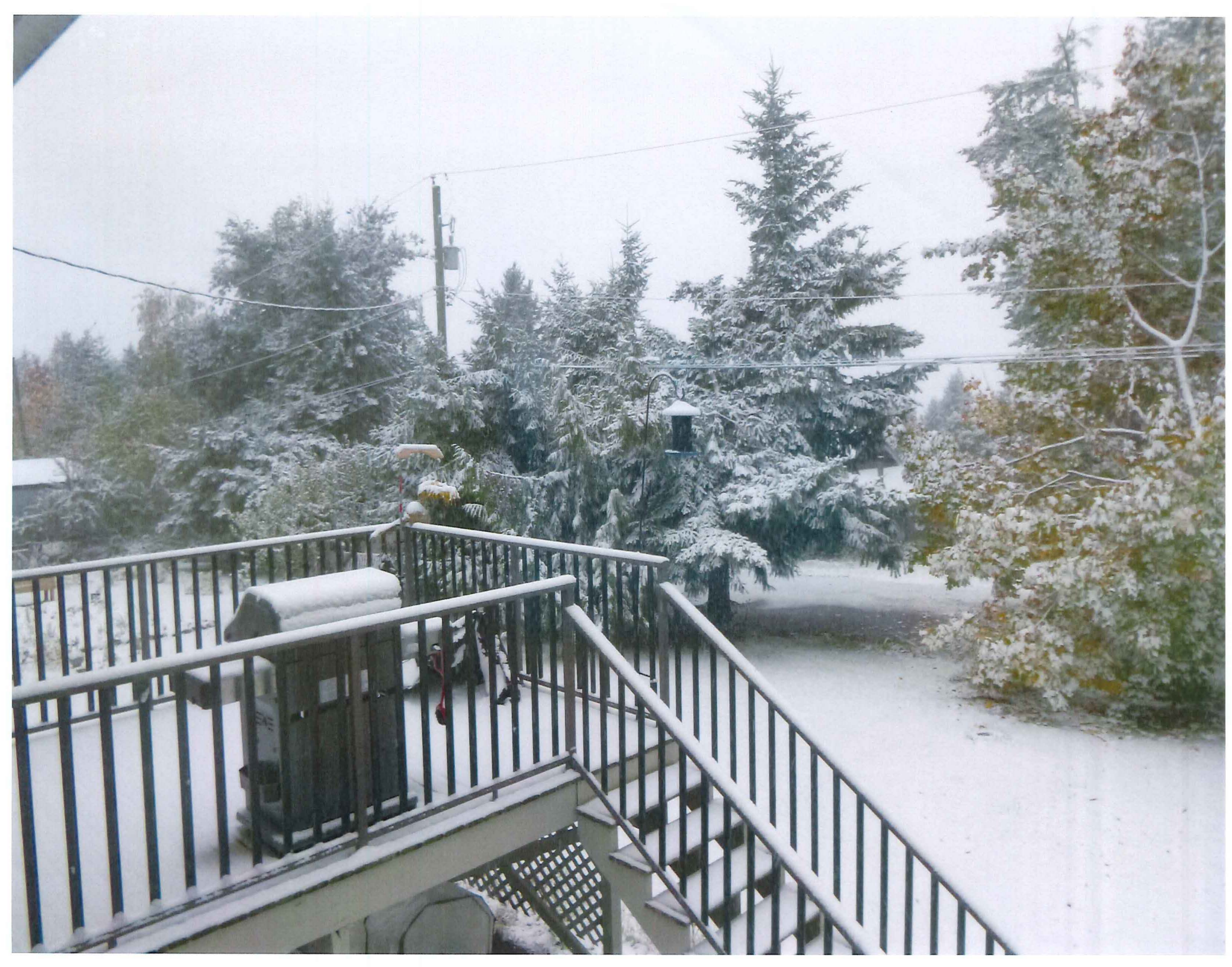
This summer will know if the sun shining through missing trees will excessively heat our older and un-air-conditioned house. Until now, the temperature dropped comfortably by mid-afternoon once the sun was shaded by the trees to the west. One estimate of the cost of air conditioning our house came in at over \$6,000.00. After the trees were felled next door and along 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., we now have little shade cover in the afternoon until sundown.

I have attached a before and after picture of the site next door, and a panorama shot of the whole site, just FYI and comparison, before and after cutting.

I see that University of British Columbia Forestry Faculty has an undergraduate program on Urban Forestry. Simon Fraser's Masters of Resource and Environmental Management may also have some useful thoughts. They might have some suggestions about developing progressive Urban Forestry strategies for Salmon Arm. Meanwhile the City might consider incorporating such a strategy into the upcoming OCP review,

All the above comments are meant to be constructive ideas, I hope you and the Committee will take them under consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Crook







**Rhonda West**

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**From:** Alan Harrison  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** noreply@civicplus.com; David Gonella; Debbie Cannon; Kevin Flynn; Louise Wallace-Richmond; Sylvia Lindgren; Tim Lavery; Erin Jackson  
**Cc:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

Hello Daniala,

Thank you for your email requesting a pedestrian flashing light installation at 30<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., NE.

We will have your letter included on the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Alan Harrison  
 Mayor,  
 City of Salmon Arm

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** May 9, 2023 2:45 PM  
**To:** Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; David Gonella <dgonella@salmonarm.ca>; Debbie Cannon <dcannon@salmonarm.ca>; Kevin Flynn <kflynn@salmonarm.ca>; Louise Wallace-Richmond <lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca>; Sylvia Lindgren <slindgren@salmonarm.ca>; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>; Erin Jackson <ejackson@salmonarm.ca>  
**Subject:** [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

## Mayor and Council

First Name Daniala

Last Name Guidoos

Address:

Return email address:

Subject: Request for a pedestrian light

Body  
 Hello Mayor,  
 As a new resident to Salmon Arm, I was hoping to bring to your attention a request to have a pedestrian flashing light installed at the cross walk between 30th & 16th Ave Ne. As there are more young children in the neighbourhood crossing the road to attend Bastion Elementary there needs to be a larger visual

presence.

This afternoon my daughter was nearly hit by a car that originally stopped for her but then proceeded to drive when she was in the middle of the road.

It is a busy road with many entries and exits due to the high school.

Thank you for your consideration on helping us make a safer and greener community for our children.

Would you like a response:

Yes

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*Written and email correspondence addressed to Mayor and Council may become public documents once received by the City. Correspondence addressed to Mayor and Council is routinely published within the Correspondence Section of Regular Council Agendas.*

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**Rhonda West**

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**From:** fred kreipe ·  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:17 PM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External] Concerns with the SA downtown

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** fred kreipe  
**Date:** May 10, 2023 at 12:48:00 PM PDT  
**To:** aharrison@salmonarm.ca, kflynn@salmonarm.ca, Tom Arrowsmith <tom@tekamar.ca>, ps244fsmanager@nbly.ca  
**Subject:** Concerns with the SA downtown

Attention; Alan Harrison & Councillor's

I'm the owner of the strata building that the Pharmasave is occupying in downtown SA. We have some concerns that has still not been addressed or acted upon. Last year we had many homeless camping & setting fires in our back alley dumpsters. In Oct we discovered a series bin fire that caused some damage to the building & gas meters which was luckily discovered early. Our strata owners decided to place security cameras & extra lighting, to prevent another Fire disaster. Now we have another problem with the homeless in front of Ross street washroom. They are camping, shoplifting & making a mess downtown. There were two attempts of shop lifting yesterday alone at the Pharmasave. The manager of Pharmasave Brent Hoffort has contacted you, the city of SA & the downtown association with these concerns. Our other problem is with our handicap parking in front of Pharmasave is always occupied by non handicap persons. We have so many handicap people needing prescription & there's No parking available. We need more patrolling & parking. We need to correct this problem ASAP or face more consequences. We are coming to a busy summer tourist season. The owners & business owners downtown SA need your help to improve these issues.

Thanks

Owner

Fred Kreipe

## Rhonda West

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**From:** Erin Jackson  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 18, 2023 9:56 AM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

For correspondence please!

**From:** noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:26 PM  
**To:** Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; David Gonella <dgonella@salmonarm.ca>; Debbie Cannon <dcannon@salmonarm.ca>; Kevin Flynn <kflynn@salmonarm.ca>; Louise Wallace-Richmond <lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca>; Sylvia Lindgren <slindgren@salmonarm.ca>; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>; Erin Jackson <ejackson@salmonarm.ca>  
**Subject:** [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

### Mayor and Council

First Name Pamela  
 Last Name Rhine  
 Address: NW  
 Return email address:  
 Subject: We need a Small Breed dog park  
 Body

Hi,  
 I want to call attention to the fact that Salmon Arm doesn't have (to my knowledge) a designated small breed off leash dog park. Many cities I have visited have one and it is greatly needed in Salmon Arm. Small dogs cannot play in an area where large dogs are allowed to run off lease. Many small dogs are simply afraid of and not comfortable around large dogs. Also, many large dogs naturally want to chase small dogs. Please take this into consideration. A location that supplies some shade would be necessary. Because of their size, small dogs overheat much quicker than large ones. It does not need to be a really large area, many I have seen are just about 150ft square. Surely there must be a space that could be used in one of our parks.  
 Thanks for your consideration, our small dogs are missing out on much needed socialization and exercise.

Would you like a response: Yes

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May 4, 2023

Mayor and Council  
City of Salmon Arm  
500 2 Ave NE  
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

Dear Mayor Harrison and City Councilors,

The Shuswap Children's Association has an ongoing program called Travelling Tots Playgroup (formerly Outdoor Recreation Program). The program is making use of family friendly spaces in the Salmon Arm area and focuses on children birth to school age, and their parents/caregivers. The purpose of the group is to provide safe, accessible, and free play-based programming for children and increase community connections for parents and caregivers.

We are requesting the use of **Fletcher Park on June 27th, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. This will be in coordination with Tyler Stevenson from the Salmon Arm Fire Department who will be coming to the park to do a fire safety presentation, and then a Fire Hall #3 tour across the road. We held the same event last year and it was extremely well attended and appreciated by our local families with children 0-6 years old.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tanya Timoffee  
Early Years Family Navigator and Outdoor Play Facilitator  
Shuswap Children's Association

**Rhonda West**

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**From:** Rhonda West  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:06 AM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Safeway sports fields

**From:** Phil Wright <[wrightphil14@gmail.com](mailto:wrightphil14@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** May 10, 2023 9:01 AM  
**To:** Rob Niewenhuizen <[rniewenhuizen@salmonarm.ca](mailto:rniewenhuizen@salmonarm.ca)>  
**Subject:** [External] Safeway sports fields

Hello Rob

Would you please facilitate this request to the Mayor and Council.

Dear Council

The Rotary Club of Salmon Arm and SASLAA requests permission to use the Safeway sports fields July 1 and 2, 2023 for attendees of the Musical ride to park vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Wright  
RCMP Musical Ride committee



Maple Tree Montessori  
Ph: 250. 804.9008  
Email: [SalmonarmMontessori@gmail.com](mailto:SalmonarmMontessori@gmail.com)  
Website: [SalmonArmMontessori.com](http://SalmonArmMontessori.com)  
Mail: 931 12th St. SE Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 2C8

## Pavilion at Blackburn Park

Dear respected Mayor & Council members,

My name is Emily Cleaver, I'm the School Director at Maple Tree Montessori. Each year, as some of our students break for summer and some Kindergarten students prepare to leave, we celebrate the year that just passed. Over recent years, this celebration has taken the form of a pot-luck picnic at Blackburn Park.

The pavilion at the park provides a perfect escape from the shade and a great place to set up the potluck. We plan to have our end-of-school-year celebration on Friday 30th June and would like to reserve the pavilion at Blackburn Park for the event. (11am - 2pm)

I originally contacted Mr. Darin Gerow, on whose suggestion, I am writing to request that this query be brought to the soonest possible council meeting.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Kindest regards,  
Emily Cleaver BA (Hons), E.C.E, MEd

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emily Cleaver', written in a cursive style.

School Director  
Maple Tree Montessori



## DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

9901 KALAMALKA ROAD, COLDSTREAM, BC V1B 1L6  
 Phone 250-545-5304 Fax 250-545-4733  
 Email: [info@coldstream.ca](mailto:info@coldstream.ca) Website: [www.coldstream.ca](http://www.coldstream.ca)  
*"Rural Living At Its Best"*

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

File: 0410-01  
 May 9, 2023

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
 Minister of Housing  
 Room 248 Parliament Buildings  
 Victoria BC V8V 1X4

VIA EMAIL: [ravi.kahlon.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:ravi.kahlon.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Honourable Kahlon:

**Re: Homes for People Action Plan**

At their Regular meeting held on May 8, 2023, the District of Coldstream passed the following resolution:

*"THAT the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Housing, with copies to the MLA for Vernon-Monashee and all members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, regarding the recently announced action plan "Homes for People" and request that the Minister take into consideration the following:*

1. *the diversity and size of communities throughout the province and their unique housing needs;*
2. *the differences between rural and urban communities and their availability of infrastructure; and*
3. *the significant impact on existing local infrastructure capacity to service increased development and density;*

*AND THAT the Minister be further advised that the District of Coldstream is concerned that broad legislative changes may curtail the local planning authority vested in local governments and expressed in their Official Community Plans and Zoning bylaws, for which significant public input has been received and accounted for in these important planning instruments.*

In addition to the points enumerated above, we would also bring to your attention that a large portion of Coldstream is served by septic systems, which are not equipped to manage the type of densification the Homes for People Action Plan contemplates. To provide the appropriate infrastructure would have a considerable financial impact to our residents without guaranteed and predictable funding/grants from the Province.

A good portion of Coldstream is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR); as such, we have concerns regarding the potential conflict between residential and agricultural land use. We have struggled with this very issue in recent years as have other communities surrounded with rural areas and have experienced development pressure.

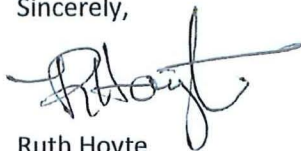
The portion of Coldstream that would be characterized as urban is very much residential and we lack access to local services such as shopping, health care, employment, and transit. These types of services and amenities are located in Vernon, a neighbouring community which acts as a the commercial 'hub' for many of our residents.

The District of Coldstream values and is known for our carefully managed growth which has always respected the wishes of the members of this community. Our Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws have been developed with considerable input from the residents. Coldstream is a desirable place to live, farm and enjoy the abundance of natural amenities we are fortunate to have. We have worked diligently to balance the need for a variety of housing types and density with moderate growth while preserving the much sought after rural lifestyle that Coldstream is known for.

Respectfully, we request you consider that there are other communities, just as unique as ours, for which a province-wide, "one-size-fits-all", approach to increasing housing supply may not be in their best interest and may result in communities that no longer resemble the ones that people chose to live in. If the Province targeted support to communities either better suited or desirous of increased density, British Columbians would have the ability to choose the housing type and the community that is the best fit for them.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns on this very important initiative.

Sincerely,



Ruth Hoyte  
Mayor

cc: Council, District of Coldstream (via email)  
MLA Harwinder Sandhu ([Harwinder.sandhu.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Harwinder.sandhu.MLA@leg.bc.ca))  
Members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities





May 3, 2023

Ref: 272118

Their Worship Mayor Alan Harrison  
and Members of Council  
City of Salmon Arm  
PO Box 40  
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4N2

Dear Mayor Harrison and Councillors:

Thank you to the leadership of the City of Salmon Arm for meeting with me during my tour of the Kootenay-Okanagan region on January 19, 2023. It was a pleasure to connect with new and familiar faces, and hear directly about your community's priorities. We appreciated your hospitality in hosting us in your community.

Being on the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders understand the opportunities and challenges faced by communities today—including housing, healthcare, public safety, and economic development. Our government is motivated to work with you as partners to ensure a prosperous and sustainable province for future generations.

The issues brought forward at our meeting were of great interest to me. It was helpful to hear about the growth in Salmon Arm's population and your various initiatives to accommodate these changes, including the new road, bridge infrastructure, and higher density developments. I also appreciated hearing about some of the challenges that were shared on behalf of surrounding rural communities. Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff will consider the possibility of a Regional District Director call to learn more about issues and opportunities firsthand.

At our meeting, we also discussed some transportation priorities, including relating to the Shuswap Regional Airport and the BC Air Access Grant. Ministry staff have shared your interests with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. I encourage you to reach out directly by email at: [Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca).

I also heard your concerns about the provincial contribution to library funding. I am very pleased that our government recently [announced](#) an additional \$45 million for public libraries to help meet the needs of people accessing these critical local services. Libraries are an integral part of our communities all over the province. Details are available on our website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/publiclibraries](http://www.gov.bc.ca/publiclibraries).

.../2

Their Worship Mayor Alan Harrison  
and Members of Council  
Page 2

We also discussed your goal for a permanent winter shelter and your involvement with BC Housing and others to support the temporary evening shelter that is currently in place. Ministry staff have contacted Ministry of Housing about this important topic. I encourage you to follow up by email at: [HOUS.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HOUS.Minister@gov.bc.ca); and with Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, by email at: [SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca).

On the topic of your sewage treatment centre, the Environmental Quality Program is currently closed with no further intakes on the horizon. However, all local governments will be notified if any new provincial funding opportunities for infrastructure projects become available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch by telephone at: 250 387-4060, or by email at: [infra@gov.bc.ca](mailto:infra@gov.bc.ca).

Since we met, our government has announced and allocated the [Growing Communities Fund](#) to help build community infrastructure and amenities to meet the demands of unprecedented population growth. The fund provides a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants to all 188 municipalities and regional districts for recreation facilities, parks, water treatments plants, and other community infrastructure. I am so pleased that the City received \$6,089,000 from the Fund to put to good work in your community.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me, and for highlighting these important issues. As partners, we can work together to deliver on these priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians. I look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Anne Kang  
Minister

pc: Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing  
Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction  
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Erin Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Salmon Arm



April 14, 2023

*Sent via email: All Municipalities in Interior Health*

Dear Municipal Partners,

This letter is in follow up to the recent exemption in B.C. to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act granted by Health Canada. This exemption is to decriminalize adults in possession of small amounts of certain controlled substances. Decriminalization is an evidence-based strategy to reduce the harms currently associated with using substances.

Decriminalization does not change or condone the criminality of specific unwanted and unsafe behaviours such as intoxication, violence, or theft in the community. Although decriminalization allows people to have a certain amount of illegal substances with them, decriminalization is not expected to change substance use behaviours. Evidence from other countries that have implemented decriminalization show **that it is not associated with increases in drug use, drug-related harm or crime** (1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10).

Interior Health Medical Health Officers do not promote substance use in public spaces, as you will know from our work on tobacco and alcohol. However, punitive approaches (usually ticketing/fines, which can escalate to jail if someone cannot afford to pay (11)) would be perpetuating the harms we are trying to reduce with this exemption (12). These harms also include stigma and shame that force people to conceal their substance use and use alone, increasing their risk of dying from substance poisoning.

People from all walks of life use substances, both the ones that are illegal (heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, etc.) and those that are legal (alcohol, cannabis, caffeine, prescribed fentanyl, etc.). The vast majority of people consume their substances either in private (e.g. at home or at a friend's house) or in a designated consumption space (e.g. bars/restaurants, supervised consumption sites).

A small group may be forced to consume their substances in more public spaces, typically because they do not have access to alternative spaces (e.g. they are houseless, they have an unsafe home environment, or supervised consumption isn't available for their substance or at the time they need to access it). As such, one important strategy to decrease consumption in public places is to offer safe and appropriate consumption spaces such as overdose prevention sites or supervised consumption services.

Interventions that address the reasons people use in public spaces are an evidence-based approach to preventing or addressing public substance use. These interventions are broad and are usually implemented by health authorities or provincial programs, but they are much more likely to be successful with municipal support:

1. **Ensuring there are appropriate places to use,**
2. **Strengthening social programs and housing,**
3. **Peer support programs and peer lead initiatives and solutions** (e.g. community clean-up teams (12)).

It is important to note that while some communities do have overdose prevention sites, the hours are usually limited to weekday business hours, which may not reflect the times that people want or need to use substances. In addition, most communities in the Southern Interior do not have an overdose prevention sites that supports inhalation or smoking, which is the most common mode of consumption leading to substance poisoning.

We, Interior Health Medical Health Officers recommend a six-month observation period to monitor the effects of decriminalization on public consumption **before implementing new bylaws or modifying existing ones.** This

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

would allow staff to monitor the situation to determine if there is in fact an increase in public drug use and give council the time to seek sound public health advice. This letter does not replace formal consultation with your local Medical Health Officer on a proposed bylaw related to substance use in public areas.

The Interior Health Medical Health Officers remain available for consultation and are able to support conversations specific to local needs.

Sincerely,



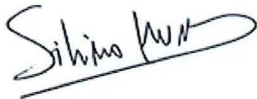
Dr. Martin Lavoie  
Interim Chief Medical Health Officer



Dr. Carol Fenton  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Jonathan Malo  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Silvina Mema  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Sue Pollock  
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Fatemeh Sabet  
Medical Health Officer

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

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Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.



May 17, 2023

Ref: 118763

Salmon Arm  
500 - 2 Avenue NE  
Salmon Arm, BC  
V1E 4N2

Dear Erin Jackson:

On behalf of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (Ministry), I am writing to invite you to participate in a province-wide engagement with municipalities and regional districts to inform the development of a policy governing the connection of cryptocurrency mining projects to electricity systems in B.C. The Ministry is also engaging with First Nations, industry, and utilities on this issue.

### **Cryptocurrency mining in B.C.**

Cryptocurrency mining is the process where specialized computers that are connected to the internet solve complex mathematical problems for a specific cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin) and receive payment in the form of that cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency mining projects typically consume electricity to power these specialized computers and can range in size from a few megawatts connected to the electricity distribution system to much larger facilities connected to the electricity transmission system.

B.C.'s clean, affordable electricity has attracted unprecedented interest from cryptocurrency miners. While BC Hydro welcomes new load and has available energy to use strategically for electric vehicles, heat pumps, clean technology, and industry, the unchecked growth of cryptocurrency mining operations in B.C. could make it more difficult to meet electrification goals in support of CleanBC and keep rates low for customers. To preserve B.C.'s electricity supply, while giving government and BC Hydro sufficient time to engage with stakeholders and First Nations to develop a permanent framework for any future cryptocurrency mining operations, a temporary suspension of new cryptocurrency mining connections to BC Hydro's grid was implemented.

In December 2022, a temporary (18-month) suspension on BC Hydro connecting new cryptocurrency mining operations to the electricity grid was put in place to provide time for the development of a permanent policy that balances First Nations' and the public's interests with the commercial interests of BC Hydro and cryptocurrency mining operations. The temporary suspension does not affect cryptocurrency mining projects that are already connected, or projects that are very close to connecting (signed Facilities Study Agreement). No new cryptocurrency projects may enter the queue or initiate the process of connection with BC Hydro during the suspension period.

### **Development of a policy framework for cryptocurrency mining connections in B.C.**

The development of a policy governing the connection of cryptocurrency mining projects to electricity systems in B.C. is likely to influence the conditions under which future cryptocurrency mining projects could be permitted to connect to electricity systems in B.C.

Although the temporary suspension on BC Hydro connecting new cryptocurrency mining operations did not apply to utilities other than BC Hydro, a permanent policy may extend to all utilities within B.C.

The Ministry is committed to engaging with municipalities and regional districts to seek feedback on the development of a permanent policy regarding cryptocurrency mining connections to the electricity system. The Ministry is interested in information on potential opportunities or impacts a permanent policy governing the connection of cryptocurrency mining operations could pose to your municipality. The feedback gathered will be used to inform Provincial decisionmakers' future deliberations on this policy.

### **The engagement process**

The engagement will be conducted through virtual or in-person workshops and held in two stages:

1. An initial discussion in which we share information about cryptocurrency mining in B.C. and our preliminary thinking about policy options, and ask for your early comments on potential opportunities and impacts of these; and
2. A second discussion in which we share refined policy options, informed by the first discussion, and ask for your feedback on these options.

The Ministry will be seeking feedback from municipalities and regional districts at both stages of the engagement through open discussion in the workshops and written submissions.

All information provided by stakeholders through this engagement process will be treated in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Based on your interest in further engagement, the follow-up e-mails will provide more information about the process and how you can participate.

We invite you to participate in an engagement process for municipalities and regional districts on a permanent policy framework for cryptocurrency mining. If you would like to participate, please indicate this interest by sending an email to [electricity.policy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:electricity.policy@gov.bc.ca) by June 7, 2023.

Thank you, and we look forward to our dialogue.



Les MacLaren  
Assistant Deputy Minister













# ANNUAL REPORT

2022  
—  
2023

Photo credit: Shuswap Adventure Girl

In this Annual Report you'll find the highlights of the SWC's work on:

- |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Water quality monitoring</b>                 |  <b>Safe boating and swimming</b>             |
|  <b>Water quality reporting</b>                  |  <b>Communications and advocacy</b>           |
|  <b>Water quality protection and improvement</b> |  <b>Council administration and governance</b> |
|  <b>Aquatic invasive species prevention</b>      |  <b>Expenditures</b>                          |

The SWC humbly acknowledges that its work takes place in Secwepemc'ulecw, the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Peoples.



Photo credit: Shuswap Tourism / Darren Robinson Photography

## Message from the Chair

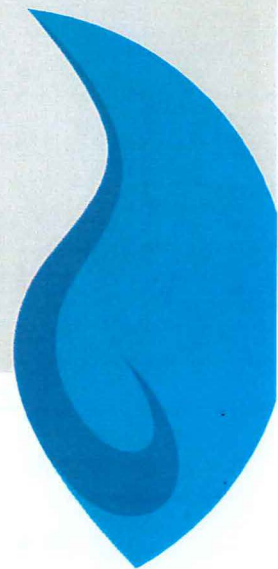
Welcome to our 7th Annual Highlights Report. Looking back over the last year, I see that our watershed continues to have some challenges and that our work as a watershed council is as important as ever. An **algal bloom in Salmon Arm Bay** persisted through August and September, posing problems for our local governments, our Council, our residents, visitors, and tourism businesses. Additionally, there is an ongoing concern that an **invasive mussel-fouled boat** may slip through our provincial border without being inspected, potentially starting a new invasion of mussels and costing residents millions of dollars every year to deal with such an invasion. Furthermore, nutrients such as **phosphorus** continually wash into our lakes and streams off the landscape which is directly affecting the lakes' biology. But, all is not doom and gloom. At the Shuswap Watershed Council, our goal is to keep water quality at the forefront of our efforts. This goal directs us to stay in contact with provincial agencies who have authority

and jurisdiction over various aspects of the watershed. Over the past year, we have encouraged the Province to apply more resources to their **watercraft inspection program** to prevent the spread of invasive mussels into BC. We have written to the Province to make them aware of our concerns and about emerging issues. We have helped advance sustainable agriculture practices through our **Water Quality Grant Program for farms** in the Shuswap.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the Council members at our table. We have representation from three provincial government agencies; from First Nations, whose history is ingrained with protection of the water and land; from members of the public who represent constituencies such as forestry and agriculture; and from three regional districts and two municipalities. We have biologists, water policy experts, farmers, and politicians—all working together for the betterment of the Shuswap watershed. *It's going to be a busy year!*



**JAY SIMPSON**  
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council  
Director, Columbia Shuswap  
Regional District Area F  
—North Shuswap



2



## Who We Are

### About the Shuswap Watershed Council

The SWC was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership of several organizations with an interest or responsibility for protecting water quality. There are up to 22 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, three provincial government agencies, and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group that focuses on strategic initiatives to protect, maintain, and enhance water quality and promote safe recreation in the Shuswap.

### Staff

The Fraser Basin Council, a provincial non-government organization, provides staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council.

### Our Vision

Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

# The Shuswap Watershed

## The Shuswap watershed is a very special place.

It is within Secwepemc'ulecw, the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Peoples and the homeland of the Neskonalith, Skw'lax, Adams Lake, and Splantsin te Secwepemc First Nations. The Shuswap watershed—including Shuswap Lake, Mara Lake, Mabel Lake, Adams Lake, and many more lakes and rivers—is about 1.5 million hectares. Shuswap Lake itself is 310 square kilometres, with hundreds of kilometres of shorelines.

It is known for its pristine water and beautiful beaches. These attributes make the Shuswap one of the most popular recreational destinations in BC, and contribute to a desirable lifestyle for residents and a significant tourism economy. The Shuswap is a nursery watershed for four species of Pacific salmon, and provides important habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The Shuswap is a vitally important source of water for drinking for many communities and rural residents, and for agriculture.

## The watershed is our main priority

While the Shuswap boasts abundant, clean water in many parts of the watershed throughout the year, there are emerging concerns affecting the water quality and health of the ecosystem. Re-occurring algal blooms in Salmon Arm Bay have the potential to impact our enjoyment of the lake, tourism, and the provision of healthy drinking water. The SWC's response to this has been to educate residents about the impact that excessive nutrients such as phosphorus has on water quality through its **Phosphorus Action Plan**. The SWC has also created financial incentives for farms and stewardship groups to improve nutrient management and undertake restoration projects through its **Water Quality Grant Program**. And, the SWC has been an **advocate for the Shuswap** by sharing its concerns about deteriorating water quality in Salmon Arm Bay with the Provincial government—who has the jurisdictional mandate for environmental health and protection—and asking for additional monitoring and action to correct the problems.

Additionally, there is an ongoing threat of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels being introduced to BC from Eastern Canada or the USA. If the mussels were to arrive in the Shuswap, they would impact water quality, ruin beaches, compete with native species for food and habitat, and colonize on boats, dock pilings, and pipes under water which would require costly regular maintenance to rid these items of their colonies. To help prevent an invasion from occurring, the SWC has delivered an **education and outreach program** to promote best practices, and it has provided financial support for **early detection monitoring** for invasive mussels. Additionally, the SWC has called upon federal and provincial authorities for greater action to stop the spread of invasive mussels to BC.

In the following pages of our 2022–23 Annual Report, you can learn more about what the SWC is doing to address these priority issues, and more, in the Shuswap watershed.



Protecting and improving water quality



Educating and advocating for better protection against invasive mussels



Promoting safe boating and recreation

## Working together on water

The management and governance of water is complex, and many different governments and organizations have roles and responsibilities related to water. The Shuswap Watershed Council brings many of these organizations together to work on water quality. While it does not have its own jurisdictional responsibility for water quality, the SWC serves as a facilitator for the **Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group** which is made up of staff from several organizations with responsibilities for monitoring. Regular meetings of the Monitoring Group enable dialogue, data and information sharing, and planning water quality monitoring across the watershed—large lakes, small lakes, and rivers.

3

17

different organizations representing municipal, regional, indigenous, provincial, and non-government organizations participate in the **Monitoring Group**.

## Water Quality Grant Program

2022 was the third year the SWC offered its **Water Quality Grant Program**. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support to farms, stewardship groups, and/or landowners in the Shuswap watershed for projects that improve on-farm nutrient management, build soil health, or restore wetlands and riparian areas. These types of projects help to protect and improve water quality in creeks, rivers, and downstream to Shuswap and Mara Lakes. Two grants were awarded in 2022, worth a total of \$51,142. The grant funding leveraged an additional \$125,773 cash and in-kind contributions from the grant recipients for a total investment of \$176,915 in new water quality protection projects.



**Gardom Lake Stewardship Society** received grant funding to construct an expansion on the Gardom Lake wetland. Wetlands are natural water-purifiers: as a creek flows through a wetland, plants take up excess nutrients and sediments settle out. They also help to buffer floods and droughts, and they provide important habitat for wildlife.



**Crystal Lake Ranch in Malakwa** received grant funding to install livestock control fencing on the ranch adjacent to the Eagle River and restore sections of the riverbank. Limiting livestock access to the river prevents the riverbank from being trampled and eroding into the river, and prevents manure deposition directly into the river.

“We want to support the adoption of new and improved nutrient management strategies on local farms, and that’s what we’re doing by making these grant funds available.”

—SWC Chair Jay Simpson

2

grants awarded

\$51,142

SWC funds toward better nutrient management and watershed restoration

\$125,773

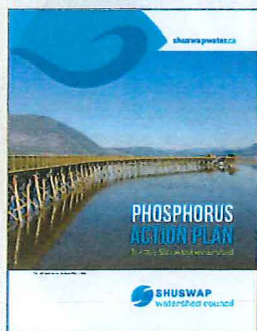
other funds and resources leveraged for better nutrient management and watershed restoration



Find the research summary report on the SWC website

The Water Quality Grant Program was developed by the SWC in response to the findings of a three-year research project done in partnership with UBC-Okanagan (2016–2019). Research results showed that the greatest proportion of nutrients in Shuswap and Mara Lakes originate from the settled valley bottoms of the Salmon and Shuswap Rivers, where there are farms and homes. These are the areas where better nutrient management and watershed restoration will have the most impact in improving water quality in the lakes.

## Phosphorus Action Plan



In the fall, the SWC published a **Phosphorus Action Plan** for the Shuswap watershed. The purpose of the Plan is to provide guidance to everyone in the Shuswap on actions they can take to protect water quality by reducing the amount of phosphorus (P) being released into the watershed. Additionally, the Plan summarizes the regulatory framework for P because the use of phosphorus and the discharge of phosphorus-rich effluents is regulated in many ways by different authorities. The provincial government has the most specific regulations to directly manage P and other nutrients.

**We are all stewards of the watershed**, and we can all play a part in protecting our water quality whether we are agriculturalists or silviculturists; building or maintaining roads; tending to parks, lawns and gardens; choosing household products and minding what we flush down our drains; properly maintaining septic systems, and more. The Plan is for all of us!



# Invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention

The SWC partnered with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) to monitor the Shuswap watershed for invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels (ZQM) from spring to fall. Additionally, CSISS and the SWC work together to educate and inform boaters, paddlers, and marina staff about preventing the spread of ZQM. The SWC promoted two important prevention measures—**watercraft inspection** and **Clean-Drain-Dry**—through news articles and print media, social media, and signage.

87

samples collected and tested for the presence of Zebra and Quagga Mussels

13

sites on 7 waterbodies were repeatedly monitored in 2022

The SWC's media messaging had:

Over  
**571,000**

Impressions in the news and travel literature

Up to  
**15,000**

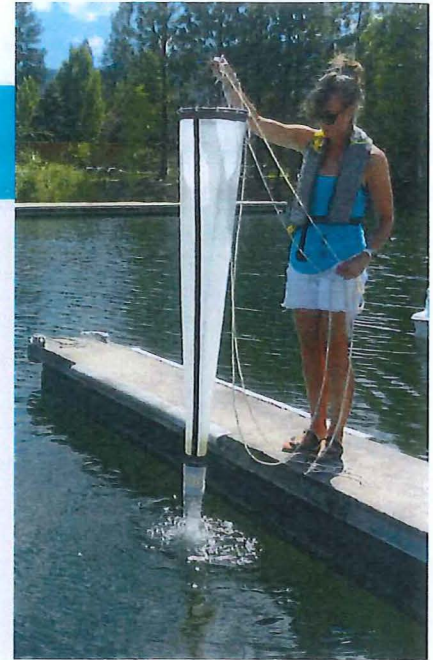
Impressions on radio listeners

Over  
**1.6 million**

Impressions on travellers through billboards

Over  
**70,000**

Impressions on social media



Invasive mussels are often introduced to a waterbody by boats and other watercraft. Therefore, where there is a high density of watercraft, there is a higher likelihood of detecting ZQM. SWC Program Manager Erin Vieira is shown here at a monitoring site in Captain's Village Marina (Scotch Creek). Erin is holding a phytoplankton net which would capture microscopic mussel larvae if they were present at this site.

“By monitoring for Zebra and Quagga Mussels, essentially we are looking for something that we hope desperately not to find.”

—Erin Vieira, SWC Program Manager

Zebra and Quagga mussels would have negative effects on water quality, beaches, and native species; they would also cause nuisance clogging in domestic water intakes, hydro-power facilities, and irrigation systems.

**Fortunately, lakes in the Shuswap—and all of British Columbia—remain invasive mussel-free. The SWC is helping to keep it that way!**



This photo illustrates how Quagga mussels have colonized on pieces of pipe in Lake Mead (Nevada) over different periods of time. This imposes very costly ongoing maintenance to rid pipes and other infrastructure of mussel colonies.

## Invasive freshwater clams

**Invasive freshwater clams**—also known as pygmy clams, golden clams, or Asian clams—were found on the shores of Shuswap Lake in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, the SWC sponsored CSISS to survey beaches on the shores of the Salmon arm and Main arm of Shuswap Lake, and on Mara Lake; these surveys found live clam populations at Sunnybrae and Canoe. Additionally, water samples that are collected in Zebra and Quagga Mussel monitoring are also tested for invasive clam larvae. Invasive clams are a species of concern, and they are the most commonly reported invasive species in the Shuswap.

We all must be diligent to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC, and to stop the spread of invasive clams around the Shuswap. Here's what you need to do:

- always **clean, drain, and dry watercraft** when moving from one lake or river to another, or from one area of Shuswap Lake to another area (if you remove your watercraft from the lake)
- stop for **watercraft inspection** when travelling
- avoid using invasive species as fishing bait
- **never release** aquarium plants, animals, or water into the environment
- report sightings of invasive clams and other invasive species using the **Report Invasives BC** app



## You can help!

Report suspected sightings of aquatic invasive species via the Report Invasives BC app.

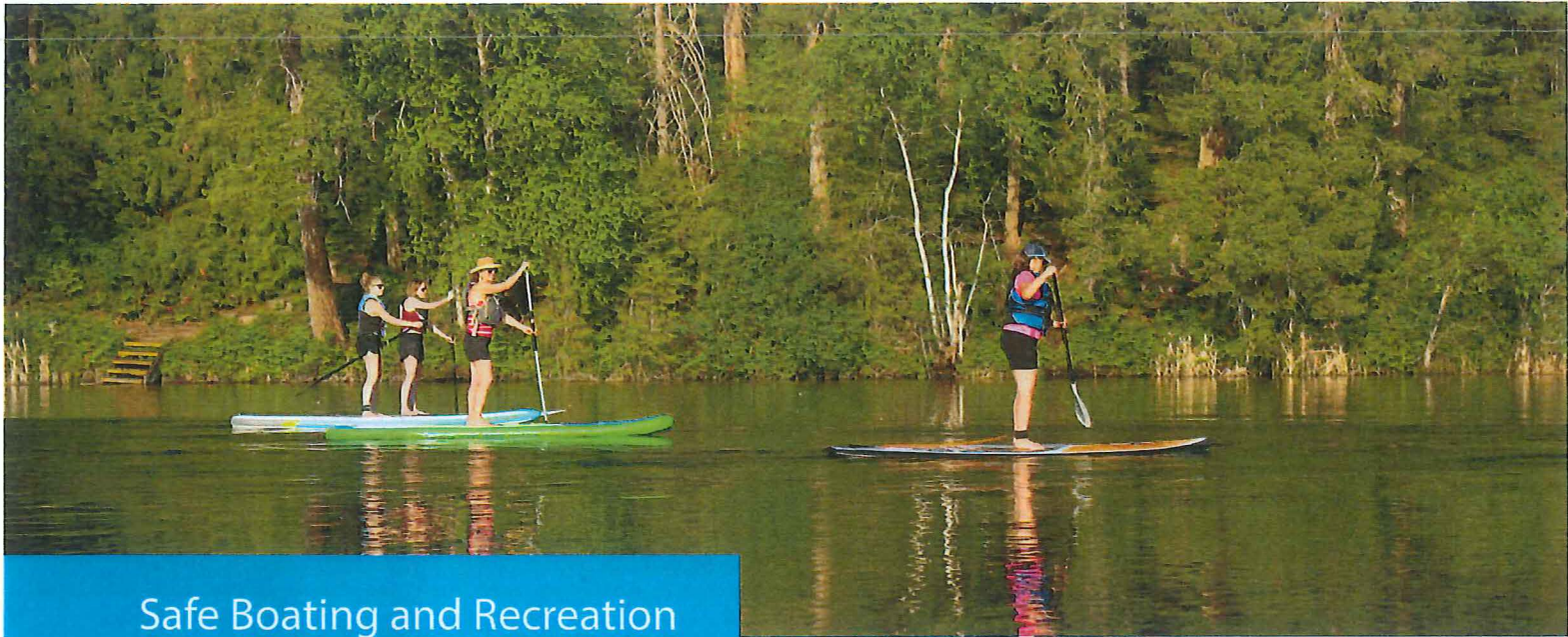


Photo credit: Viktoria Haack / Shuswap Tourism

## Safe Boating and Recreation

**8 TIPS** for Having Fun and Staying Safe in the Shuswap

1. Whether boating, fishing, paddling, or surfing, always wear a life jacket.
2. Have a sober skipper! Never boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. Be prepared. Check your pre-departure checklist.
4. Be extra safe in cold water—it can double you from rescuing.
5. Always use a spitter for raw spots.
6. Watch for floating and partially submerged debris.
7. Watch—don't just listen—for trouble in the water. Don't be distracted while supervising children.
8. Always swim with a friend—it's safer than swimming alone.

**NO LIFEJACKET!** You get arrested and the boat may be seized. Remember the Shuswap Watershed Council and Shuswap Water Safety Committee.

**Locations of Key Canoe, Kayak, Surf and Rescue (KCR) Life Jacket Loaner (LJ) Stations:**

- 1. Skutumpah Bay
- 2. Shuswap
- 3. Old Town Bay
- 4. Shuswap
- 5. Shuswap
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Shuswap Water Safety Committee  
shuswapwater.ca

The SWC wants everyone in the Shuswap to be safe on and near the water whether boating, paddling, or beach-going. In 2022, the SWC raised awareness for unsafe behaviours and promoted safe practices such as wearing a lifejacket, boating sober, and drowning prevention. The SWC promoted “8 top tips” through a combination of articles, social media, and advertising. The SWC also promoted national campaigns such as Lifejacket Day, Water Safety Week, and Drowning Prevention Week. Additionally, the SWC partners with the Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue, Station 106 Shuswap (based in Sicamous) to raise awareness of the availability of lifejacket loaner kiosks for children and life ring stations at several locations throughout the Shuswap.

The SWC's safety messaging had up to...

**79,900**  
Impressions on social media

**284,600**  
Impressions in the news and in print

**45,000**  
Impressions on the radio

6 Rack cards and posters describing 8 top tips for safety were distributed to nearly 60 locations throughout the Shuswap.

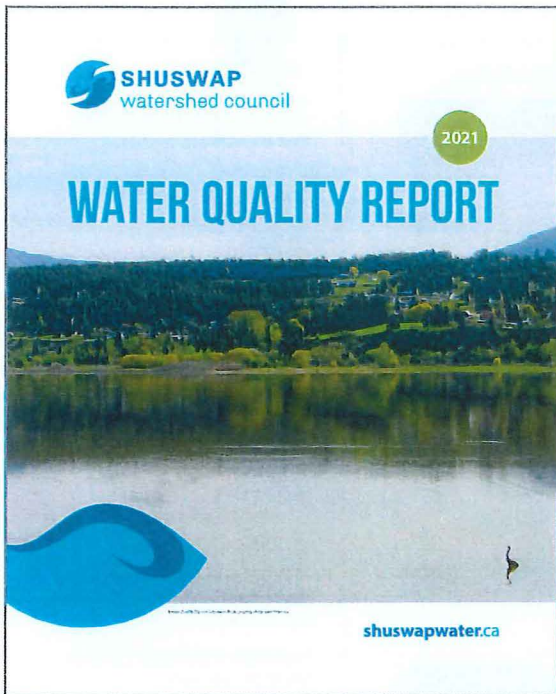


Did you know there are **19 lifejacket loaner kiosks** around the Shuswap, equipped with child-sized lifejackets to borrow for free on the honour system? The kiosks are provided by the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue, Station 106 Shuswap, with support from several community sponsors. The SWC has proudly sponsored the installation of three kiosks.

Bruce Weicker (RCM-SAR #106) and Erin Vieira (Shuswap Watershed Council) hang up lifejackets for the season at the loaner station at Old Town Bay in Sicamous.



# Communications and Advocacy



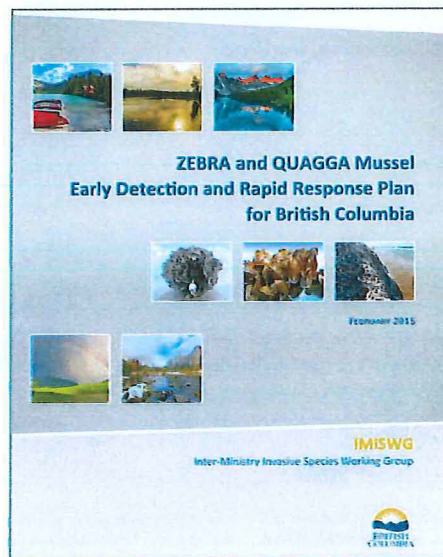
Throughout the year, the SWC publishes various communiqués about its operations, decisions, expenditures, and achievements. It also strives to engage Shuswap residents and visitors in important issues and announcements relevant to the Shuswap watershed. These communiqués include:

- Completion and distribution of the SWC's sixth annual water quality report, the 2021 **Shuswap Water Quality Summary**
- SWC Meeting Highlights Summaries (4 times per year)
- Media releases about the SWC's activities and achievements
- The SWC maintains an informative **website** and an active presence on **social media**



## Local voices for local issues

The SWC is an advocate for the Shuswap watershed. Over the past several years, the SWC has called upon provincial and federal authorities to take additional steps and make additional investments to ensure the long-term health of the Shuswap watershed. In 2022, the SWC wrote to the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship asking for **more resources for the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP)** such that all routes into BC from Alberta and Washington have a watercraft inspection and decontamination station to better protect BC from aquatic invasive mussels. The IMDP is BC's first line of defense against invasive mussels; however, the SWC remains concerned that travellers with watercraft can enter BC via an unchecked route or outside of inspection station hours. **The SWC has called for other steps from government to stop the spread of invasive mussels**, including the introduction of new 'pull-the-plug' legislation for watercraft owners; a review and update of the *BC Zebra and Quagga Mussel Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan* by the Province; and better containment of invasive mussels in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec where the mussels occur.



shuswapwater.ca

Follow us and stay up to date with our work!



## Administration and Expenses

Four Council meetings were held throughout the year to approve projects and work plans, receive operational updates from staff, hear informative presentations from other groups, and discuss arising issues. SWC meetings are open to observers.

### 2022–23 Budget (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022–March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023)

The SWC's work is supported by contributions from the following organizations:

Contributor	Amount (\$)
2021–22 surplus (carried forward from March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022)	81,804 <sup>1</sup>
Return of grant funding	8,200
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Areas C, D, E, F and the District of Sicamous)	160,000
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1,300
<i>Federal grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada—Boating Safety Contribution Program	22,900
<b>Revenue for 2022–23</b>	<b>367,804</b>

### Operational Expenses

Program	Budgeted (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	28,850	23,644	5,206
Water Quality Protection & Improvement	158,930	86,895	72,035 <sup>2</sup>
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,875	33,988	1,887
Safe Recreation	27,600	24,839	2,761
Communications & Advocacy	55,100	42,990	12,110
Management & Administration	43,750	37,090	6,660
<b>Sub-total operational expenses</b>	<b>350,105</b>	<b>249,445</b>	<b>100,660</b>
2023 contribution to Operating Reserve	17,699	0	17,699
<b>Summary of expenses</b>	<b>367,804</b>	<b>249,445</b>	<b>118,359</b>

Operating Reserve <sup>3</sup>	(\$)
Balance at April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022 (carried forward from March 31 <sup>st</sup> )	132,667
2022–23 contribution	17,699
Balance as at March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023	150,366

1 The Water Quality Protection & Improvement budget often ends the year with a surplus due to funds that have been approved for spending but not carried out until the following year. Of the \$81,804 surplus at the start of April 2022, \$71,430 was allocated to projects that were completed in 2022–23. Also see note #2.

2 Of the \$72,035 surplus in the Water Quality Protection & Improvement budget as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, \$53,004 is allocated to projects that will be completed in 2023–24.

3 The Operating Reserve has been growing since 2016 as a result of annual surpluses.



### SWC Members

March 31, 2023

#### Chair—Jay Simpson

Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F

#### Vice Chair—Natalya Melnychuk

Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G

#### Director Marty Gibbons

Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C

#### Director Dean Trumbley

Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D

#### Director Rhona Martin

Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E

#### Mayor David Lepsoe

Thompson-Nicola Regional District,  
Village of Chase

#### Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson

Thompson-Nicola Regional District,  
City of Kamloops

#### Councillor Debbie Cannon

City of Salmon Arm

#### Councillor Pam Beech

District of Sicamous

#### Councillor Howard Nordquist

Adams Lake Indian Band

#### Robyn Laubman

Splatsin te Secwepemc

#### Director Jim Johnson

Regional District of North Okanagan, Area E

#### Director Allysa Hopkins

Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F

#### Erik Kok

Community Representative

#### Kimm Magill-Hofmann

Community Representative

#### Phil Owen

Community Representative

#### Kym Keogh

BC Ministry of Environment  
& Climate Change Strategy

#### Lindsay Benbow

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries

#### Kelly Chiatto

BC Ministry of Forests

#### Dennis Einarson

Senior Scientific Advisor





## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### FortisBC receives approval from the BCUC for Advanced Gas Meters

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**Surrey, B.C.- May 17** — FortisBC Energy Inc. (FortisBC) received approval from the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) for its proposed Advanced Gas Meters project. Through this project, FortisBC will enhance its customers' experience by upgrading more than one million gas meters across B.C.

With the installation of the new meters and wireless network, FortisBC gas customers will receive several benefits:

- Customers will be able to access daily data on their gas use, empowering them with the tools they need to make cost-effective energy choices for their families and businesses.
- Safety enhancements such as notifications if unusual gas flows are detected, which could indicate a faulty appliance.
- Reduced inconvenience to customers by no longer needing to shut-off gas service during meter exchanges or regularly entering customers' properties to read meters.

Customers will be advised when these benefits are available in their area.

"We are constantly looking for ways that technology can improve our customer experience," said Dawn Mehrer, vice president of corporate services and technology at FortisBC. "The approval of the Advanced Gas Meters project allows us to make transformational upgrades that will provide customers with long overdue tools to better support their daily energy decisions."

The project will address the need to modernize the current gas meter technology, which has not changed in over 100 years. In addition to the direct customer benefits, the advanced meters will allow FortisBC to better monitor and manage its system and offer additional safety features such as the ability to remotely detect and respond to gas leaks, including in the event of emergencies like earthquakes and fires. The meters have undergone rigorous testing to ensure accuracy, safety and integrity and are approved for use by Measurement Canada.

"The Fire Chiefs' Association of BC fully supports the deployment of FortisBC's advanced gas meters. As a non-profit organization focused on fire safety across the province, we recognize these new meters will provide enhanced safety features and improved reliability to B.C. homes and businesses. We appreciate FortisBC's ongoing commitment to safety and innovation and look forward to continuing to engage on the project," said Dan Derby, president at Fire Chiefs' Association of BC.

The installation of advanced gas meters is planned to start in 2024, while installation of the meters' wireless network will take place in 2023. FortisBC will share project updates and the meter installation schedule when available.

To learn more about the Advanced Gas Meter project, and to stay up-to-date on when we'll be in your neighbourhood, visit the project webpage at [fortisbc.com/advancedgasmeters](https://fortisbc.com/advancedgasmeters).

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **About FortisBC**

FortisBC Energy Inc. is a regulated utility focused on providing safe and reliable energy, including natural gas, Renewable Natural Gas and propane. FortisBC Energy Inc. employs around 2,078 British Columbians and serves approximately 1,075,600 customers across British Columbia. FortisBC Energy Inc. owns and operates approximately 50,500 kilometres of gas transmission and distribution pipelines. FortisBC Energy Inc. is a subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry. FortisBC Energy Inc. uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc. For further information on FortisBC, visit [www.fortisbc.com](http://www.fortisbc.com). For further information on Fortis Inc., visit [www.fortisinc.com](http://www.fortisinc.com).

### **Backgrounder**

FortisBC is working to build a more advanced gas delivery system for its more than one million customers across British Columbia. In early May 2021, FortisBC filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission to upgrade natural gas meters as part of the Advanced Gas Meter Project.

FortisBC engaged with customers and stakeholders since 2019, in the 135 communities it serves across the province where meter upgrades will take place. Engagement included: letters to stakeholders, government and Indigenous communities; province-wide media campaigns; province-wide in-person and virtual information sessions; and direct customer communications. The feedback received through engagement efforts helped FortisBC develop the Advanced Gas Meter Project application.

### **Old meter versus new advanced meter**



*Left to right: current gas meter; new advanced gas meter.*

# Southern Interior Community Relations 2022 Annual Report

April 2023

Kinbasket Reservoir supplies power to the province and a beautiful location to enjoy the outdoors.  
Photo courtesy of Murray Chapple.

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## Support for customers impacted by natural disasters

BC Hydro continues to support our customers across the province that were significantly impacted by wildfires and atmospheric river events in 2021, including our customers in the Village of Lytton, the City of Merritt, and the Highway 8 and Coquihalla corridors from south of Merritt through to Spences Bridge. Employees across the organization are working together to help our customers get back home as quickly as possible, including our engineers, planners, designers, and field services teams.

Following the devastating wildfire in the Village of Lytton on June 30, 2021, BC Hydro employees across the organization worked to rebuild our electrical system and reconnect customers to our grid. Work to rebuild the main circuit was completed on February 5, 2023 and there are also working streetlights on Main Street.

In November 2021, many of our customers in the City of Merritt and along the Highway 8 and Coquihalla corridors were impacted by the atmospheric river event, which resulted in significant damage. Repairs to our system in the City of Merritt and along the Coquihalla were completed in early 2022, and all accessible customers along Highway 8 have now been restored.

## Help for evacuees

In addition to restoring power to customers who were impacted by these events, BC Hydro also has programs available to help customers returning home after an evacuation order. Residential and commercial customers who were affected by an evacuation order are eligible to receive a bill credit for the electricity consumed while they were out of their home if the evacuation order was for five days or longer. We also offer flexible bill payment plans after our customers return home.

## How the bill credit works

We proactively monitor evacuation orders year-round to identify those lasting at least five days. We'll then automatically apply a credit to affected accounts for the electricity consumed during the period that the customer is out of their home or business due to an evacuation order. This credit applies to residential, small business (Small General Service rate), and irrigation (Irrigation Service Rate) customers.

Previously evacuated customers who return to their home can expect to see the evacuee credit applied to their account 30 to 60 days after returning. BC Hydro will continue to waive late payment charges. Once the credit is applied, there are further options available to assist these customers with any remaining balances.



Highway 8 following the atmospheric river in November 2021. Photo courtesy of the Merritt Distribution Line Crew



BC Hydro crews restoring electrical infrastructure in the Village of Lytton in January 2023. Photo courtesy of Clay Rhodenizer

## Message from Chris O’Riley, President & CEO



Hi everyone,

BC Hydro is pleased to share our Community Relations annual report highlighting some of our work in your region. We’re proud to serve communities in all parts of the province.

BC Hydro is one of the largest electric utilities in Canada. We generate and provide electricity to 95 per cent of B.C.’s population and serve approximately five million people. We are powered by water. We have 30 hydroelectric plants, which provide the foundation for our clean, reliable, low-cost power system. This ensures our hydroelectric supply can be used to help B.C. reduce its carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change both today and for future generations.

Climate change, technological advances, and evolving customer energy needs continue to transform our business. While we navigate these ongoing developments, we have the important responsibility of keeping electricity rates affordable for our customers and funding necessary investments in our system.

Within this report, you’ll find many examples of how we’re working with your communities on a range of initiatives – from regional capital projects and corporate programs, to our Electrification Plan. The plan has us pursuing electrification opportunities in three sectors that account for the most emissions in our province: homes and buildings, transportation, and industry. You can read more at: [bchydro.com/electrificationplan](https://bchydro.com/electrificationplan).

We’ll continue to encourage conservation as it’s an important part of the Province of B.C.’s climate plan. At the same time, we’ll be offering new programs and incentives to help British Columbians make the switch from fossil fuels to clean hydroelectricity to power their homes, vehicles, and businesses. We’ll also help attract new energy-intensive industries to B.C. and offer programs to reduce the time and costs for new customers to get connected to our grid.

We’ll continue working closely with you to support your community. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Community Relations representatives in your region. We’d be pleased to help.

Sincerely,

Chris O’Riley

President & CEO  
BC Hydro

### Quick Facts

#### PROVINCE-WIDE:

Approximately 5 million customers

Electricity is delivered through a network of:

- approximately 80,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution lines
- over 300 substations
- 1 million plus utility poles

#### SOUTHERN INTERIOR GENERATING CAPACITY

Mica	2,746.5 MW
Revelstoke	2,480 MW
Seven Mile	805 MW
Kootenay Canal	583 MW
Whatshan	59 MW
Aberfeldie	25 MW
Elko	12 MW
Walter Hardman	8 MW
Shuswap	6 MW
Spillimacheen	4 MW

Hugh L. Keenleyside Dam\*

Duncan Dam\*

\* Columbia River Treaty Dam – No

Generation

MW = megawatt



## Site C update

Located in northeast British Columbia, BC Hydro's Site C Clean Energy Project will be the third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River.

Construction on the Site C project began in July 2015. The project is more than two-thirds complete and on schedule to have all six generating units fully in-service in 2025.

The Site C powerhouse building structure is finished, the new substation and transmission lines are already in-service and work on the earthfill dam is about 70 per cent complete. Over the next year, work will continue on the earthfill dam to reach the necessary elevation gains in preparation for reservoir filling.

The project hit peak construction in the summer of 2022 with more than 5,000 workers. Nearly 70 per cent of workers are from British Columbia and about 1,000 workers are from the local Peace region.

BC Hydro also continued to deliver on several commitments in the region this year. For example, we continued to provide grants to support non-profit organizations in the Peace region through the Generate Opportunities (GO) Fund. As of fall 2022, 73 projects had received more than \$638,000 since the fund was launched in 2016.

The Site C project plays a key role in British Columbia's plan to electrify its economy by encouraging customers to choose clean electricity powered by water over fossil fuels.

Once the project is up and running, Site C will provide British Columbians with 1,100 megawatts of firm capacity and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours of clean electricity each year. This is the equivalent amount of energy needed to reliably power about 450,000 homes or 1.7 million electric vehicles per year in British Columbia.

## Our Plan to Electrify B.C.

BC Hydro will be instrumental in building a sustainable economy in B.C. We'll continue to support conservation efforts, while also offering new programs and incentives to help British Columbians make the switch from fossil fuels to clean hydroelectricity to power their homes, businesses, fleets, and vehicles.

We'll also help to attract new energy-intensive industries to B.C. and offer programs to reduce the time and costs for new customers to get connected to our grid.

Our business-to-business website, [choose.bchydro.com](https://choose.bchydro.com), is now live!

The Why Choose B.C.? site was created to promote the Load Attraction Program with businesses and industry – one of the key pillars of our Electrification Plan.

The site is geared towards clean tech and high-tech businesses interested in establishing operations in the province. BC Hydro is offering eligible new customers support and access to favourable industrial rates and funding/incentives for their businesses, as well as support to identify potential industrial sites.

At the same time, we are working with existing customers and municipalities to find capacity and identify suitable industrial sites for these customers. If you have questions about the Load Attraction Program, please contact [Business & Economic Development](#).



This aerial view shows Site C's spillways, penstocks, powerhouse and operations building for BC Hydro's third dam along the Peace River. Photo courtesy of Site C Team, BC Hydro.

# Regional Information

## Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Habitat Restoration Project

BC Hydro is delivering a wide range of monitoring studies to learn more about the endangered white sturgeon population in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River. While the specific cause of white sturgeon population decline is still being investigated, improving substrate conditions at spawning sites where dam construction and river regulation have had an impact was identified as a positive initiative to give eggs and larvae the best chance of survival.

A working group comprised of BC Hydro, Columbia Power, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and Ktunaxa Nation Council have recommended placing a specific mix of rocks and gravel that will improve conditions for incubating eggs and larvae to help them hide from predators during this critical life stage. This project will enhance the spawning substrate for endangered white sturgeon in the spawning area in the tailrace (outlet channel) of Arrow Lakes Generating Station.

### Working to improve white sturgeon spawning sites

We commissioned a study in 2017 to better understand current substrate conditions and to assess the feasibility of restoration options that would likely benefit white sturgeon. Spawning habitat downstream of the Arrow Lakes Generating Station location is less suitable for sturgeon spawning as it consists of larger substrates that does not allow for adequate egg and larval survival.

This project, as recommended by the working group, involves placing a specific mix of rocks and gravel that will improve conditions for incubating eggs and larvae by giving them more opportunity for hiding from predators during this early, critical life stage. The project will enhance the spawning substrate for endangered white sturgeon in the spawning area downstream of the Arrow Lakes Generating Station. Construction for this project is currently underway and is expected to be completed by April 2023.

This work builds on the success of a prior experiment at the Revelstoke spawning location in 2011 that demonstrated biological benefit for larval white sturgeon, as well as research carried out by the Province on other populations experiencing decline.



BC Hydro's Senior Environmental Coordinator James Crossman releases a hatchery-origin juvenile white sturgeon into the Columbia River. Photo courtesy of Marco Marrello.



A juvenile white sturgeon. Photo courtesy of Angus Glass.

### Powered by Water

BC Hydro provides clean, reliable and affordable electricity to British Columbians. We generate about 98% clean energy for the province, mostly from our hydroelectric resources.

## Distribution Line Upgrades in Edgewood

In 2022, BC Hydro upgraded the Monashee distribution line that runs through Edgewood. Approximately 2.5 kilometres of the single-phase line was upgraded to a three-phase line, and we also built approximately 0.45 kilometres of new three-phase line. The project area is shown on the map to the right. This project will improve power quality and provide a more reliable electrical distribution system for our customers in Edgewood.

Work on this project took place in 2022 from May to July and then resumed at the end of October. All work was completed by the end of November 2022. We thank our customers for their patience and support while work was completed.

This work follows a similar project that took place in 2021 in Rosebery, where BC Hydro upgraded the distribution line that runs along Highway 6. Approximately 1.7 kilometres of single-phase line was upgraded to a three-phase line, and we also installed nine new poles along Highway 6.



The old single-phase line was upgraded to a three-phase line. Photo courtesy of Curtis Head.

## Martha Creek Boat Ramp Improvements

BC Hydro maintains a popular boat ramp on Revelstoke Reservoir at Martha Creek Provincial Park, 19 kilometres north of Revelstoke. In April 2022, we invested \$750,000 to make improvements to the boat ramp for the benefit of boaters, kayakers, and other recreational users of the reservoir.

Here are the improvements we made:

- Replaced the pre-cast concrete panels;
- Extended the panels to reach a toe elevation of 570 metres, with a gravel transition to prevent future backwash issues; and
- Replaced the boarding floats.

The work was completed ahead of schedule and in time for the opening of the provincial park in May 2022.



The popular Martha Creek Provincial Park on Revelstoke Reservoir in September 2022. Photo courtesy of Karen Bray

## Upgrades to Joseph Creek Substation

We're committed to delivering safe and reliable electricity to our customers throughout the province. In keeping with this commitment, we are investing \$17 million to upgrade equipment at Joseph Creek Substation in Cranbrook to improve its reliability and safety. The substation serves about 1,700 customers in Cranbrook, Fort Steele, Wycliffe and ᑭᓄᓂᓄ.



Located in Cranbrook's industrial area, Joseph Creek Substation is undergoing a \$17 million upgrade. Photo courtesy of Sally Masters

The work includes installing new substation equipment and replacing wooden poles with steel structures. Steel structures can last about 80 years, which is double the life expectancy of a wooden pole. Steel infrastructure is also less susceptible to damage from wildfires and wildlife.

The upgrades will maintain system reliability by replacing end-of-life equipment. While the project will keep the capacity of the substation unchanged, the upgrades will allow for future expansion of the facility if a need for additional capacity arises. Construction began in June 2022 and will continue until early 2024.



In March 2022, BC Hydro removed about 68,000 cubic metres of gravel from the mouth of the Illecillewaet River, where it flows into Arrow Lakes Reservoir in Revelstoke. The dredging project is part of a tri-party agreement with the Province and the City of Revelstoke. BC Hydro periodically removes accumulated river gravel and excavates a deep channel in the river to reduce the risk of winter ice jams that can cause flooding to low-lying residences. Photo courtesy of Jen Walker-Larsen



Crews near Field, B.C. working to restore power and protect the electrical supply for our customers. Photo courtesy of Jesse Winchester



# Supporting Communities

## Trees and Vegetation Management

Our electrical system is complex and highly efficient, with approximately 80,000 kilometres of overhead transmission and distribution power lines throughout the province. Managing trees and plants around these lines is important for safety and service reliability.

B.C. has some of the tallest and fastest-growing trees in North America. Our vegetation management team regularly inspects trees and other tall vegetation growing under or adjacent to our overhead system to identify potential problems.

Tall, diseased or dead trees can fall or grow into power lines, causing electrical outages.

Vegetation management contractors – we employ professional arborists and foresters that follow strict environmental guidelines – prune or remove trees and vegetation in areas where the lines may be impacted. Furthermore, when an area experiences reliability issues, we assess the local distribution lines for potential tree-related causes.

Even with a proactive management program, more than half of all outages in B.C. are caused by adverse weather causing trees and vegetation to come into contact with our system. For more information, please select [bchydro.com/trees](https://bchydro.com/trees).

## Recreation sites

We maintain a wide range of recreation areas as one part of our efforts to balance the province's energy needs with the preservation of the natural environment.

BC Hydro reservoirs make it possible to provide clean energy to the province. Those reservoirs also serve as recreational sites that many people enjoy for things like hiking, boating, camping and swimming. For more information, please select [bchydro.com/recreation](https://bchydro.com/recreation).

## Community ReGreening Program

BC Hydro is proud to assist local governments through our Community ReGreening Program which supports the planting of trees and other vegetation that help enhance ecological networks across the province. The program also helps to ensure the right trees are planted near our powerlines.

Our ReGreening grants fund small-scale community planting projects and are open to all municipal and Indigenous Nations' governments within BC Hydro's service area. All applications are accepted through our online form.

The application intake for 2023 grant funding closed on January 31, 2023. All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by email within approximately four to six weeks. For more information, please select [bchydro.com/regreening](https://bchydro.com/regreening). Check back in November for updates on next year's funding cycle.

This past year, successful applications included:

Community	Project	Funding
Salmon Arm	Street Tree Revitalization and Parks Tree Management	\$7,500
Lake Country	Okanagan Centre Park Improvements	\$6,931
Logan Lake	Community ReGreening – Campground and Maggs Park	\$6,928

<b>Chase</b>	Street Trees	\$2,513
<b>Nakusp</b>	Nakusp ReGreening	\$1,310
<b>Enderby</b>	Tuey Park ReGreening	\$5,350
<b>Kimberley</b>	Cemetery Tree Revitalization	\$7,500
<b>Eagle Bay (Columbia Shuswap Regional District)</b>	Eagle Bay, Loftus Lake and Sunnybrae Tree Planting	\$1,701
<b>Radium Hot Springs</b>	Park Drive Enhancements	\$3,299
<b>Sparwood</b>	Centennial Plaza and Area Redevelopment	\$7,500

## Decorative Wrap Grant Program

Our Decorative Wrap Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipal governments, regional districts and First Nations communities looking to improve the visual aesthetics of a neighbourhood by installing decorative wraps on BC Hydro-owned pad-mounted equipment boxes.

Eligible applicants can receive grant funding of \$350 or \$700 per unit, depending on the size of the equipment box to be wrapped. The funding amount will be determined by BC Hydro during the application review.

The application closing date for each year is September 30. For more information, please select [bchydro.com/wraps](https://www.bchydro.com/wraps).

## Graffiti removal

Graffiti vandalism is a crime that affects everyone. BC Hydro prioritizes the removal of graffiti that is socially offensive (e.g. obscenities, racial or religious slurs) as well as graffiti that is located in high-profile or sensitive areas (e.g. adjacent to schools, churches, and community centres).

We rely on the public around B.C. to report graffiti on everything from pad-mounted transformer boxes to our buildings. As an alternative, graffiti removal agreements offer financial support to local governments or community groups to remove graffiti on our behalf. For more information on graffiti removal agreements, please contact one of our Southern Interior team members:

<b>Vernon Office</b> Dag Sharman Manager, Community Relations  250 549 8531 <a href="mailto:dag.sharman@bchydro.com">dag.sharman@bchydro.com</a>	<b>Castlegar Office</b> Mary Anne Coules Stakeholder Engagement Advisor  250 365 4565 <a href="mailto:maryanne.coules@bchydro.com">maryanne.coules@bchydro.com</a>	<b>Vernon Office</b> Dave Cooper Public Affairs Officer  250 306 9826 <a href="mailto:david.cooper@bchydro.com">david.cooper@bchydro.com</a>
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Example of a decorative wrap added to BC Hydro equipment. Photo courtesy of the City of Richmond.

## Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and public stakeholders, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

BC Hydro has water licence obligations in the Columbia and Peace regions, and has made voluntary commitments to address the impacts of dams in the Coastal Region. BC Hydro fulfills these obligations through the work of the FWCP.

BC Hydro's Southern Interior region includes the Shuswap River Watershed which is part of the FWCP's Coastal Region, and the FWCP's Columbia Region.

The FWCP's Coastal Region board approved funding for two projects in the Shuswap River Watershed: riparian restoration planning near Shuswap Falls, and building awareness about Chinook salmon through the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre.

The FWCP's Columbia Region board supports fish and wildlife projects through grant applications, long-term agreements, and directed projects. Forty-three projects were approved for 2021–2022, for approximately \$5.67 million in funding.

These projects are adding nutrients to Kootenay Lake and the Arrow Lakes Reservoir, recovering Columbia River white sturgeon, operating kokanee spawning channels, stewarding conservation lands, supporting upland and dryland species, enhancing non-game habitat, recovering caribou and northern leopard frog populations, restoring wetlands, and securing conservation lands.

Since 1988, the FWCP has committed more than \$200 million to support fish and wildlife in the province. Learn more at [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).



Land securement continues to be a priority for the FWCP Columbia Region board. Since 2008, approximately \$4.5 million in funding has been contributed to secure more than 69,000 hectares. This includes Cottonwood Lake, an area near Nelson, that is home to the region's best corridor for the endangered South Selkirk grizzly bear. Photo courtesy of FWCP

## Grants-in-lieu

We pay net property tax and grant payments to local governments. The grant program is a provincial government initiative and the amounts paid are determined under the current legislation. Listed below are the grants paid to each community in the Southern Interior region as of December 31, 2022.

Municipality/District	School taxes*	Grants	Other taxes	Total payments
City of Armstrong	\$49,958.86	\$56,524.08	\$40.00	\$106,522.94
Village of Ashcroft	\$14,068.32	\$24,970.15	0	\$39,038.47
District of Barriere	\$33,779.22	\$29,471.06	0	\$63,250.28
Village of Cache Creek	\$15,672.57	\$32,724.66	0	\$48,397.23
Village of Canal Flats	\$16,275.24	\$41,356.60	\$1,028.00	\$58,659.84
City of Castlegar	\$3,220.80	\$83,746.04	\$1,921.21	88,888.05
Central Kootenay Regional District	0	\$1,005,913.00	0	\$1,005,913.00
Village of Chase	\$20,634.21	\$22,897.01	\$1,155.54	\$44,686.76
District of Clearwater	\$71,649.29	\$38,927.02	\$138.73	\$110,715.04
Village of Clinton	\$9,289.42	\$11,621.67	0	\$20,911.09
District of Coldstream	\$80,174.16	\$121,217.68	0	\$201,391.84
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District	0	\$2,567,015.00	0	\$2,567,015.00

Municipality/District	School taxes*	Grants	Other taxes	Total payments
City of Cranbrook	\$163,765.28	\$349,573.48	\$(0.01)	\$513,338.75
East Kootenay Regional District	0	\$93,919.00	0	\$93,919.00
District of Elkford	\$42,581.48	\$191,849.59	0	\$234,431.07
City of Enderby	\$11,600.64	\$28,190.83	0	\$39,791.47
City of Fernie	\$104,789.11	\$142,447.16	\$9,867.27	\$257,103.54
Town of Golden	\$75,859.40	\$138,523.77	\$1,325.68	\$215,708.85
District of Invermere	\$17,248.32	\$59,403.10	0	\$76,651.42
City of Kamloops	\$953,889.33	\$1,561,717.30	\$506.29	\$2,516,112.92
City of Kelowna	\$5,342.40	\$23,413.45	0	\$28,755.85
City of Kimberley	\$53,588.71	\$70,028.77	0	\$123,617.48
Kootenay Boundary Regional District	0	\$1,664,876.00	0	\$1,664,876.00
District of Lake Country	\$109,565.76	\$189,040.13	\$275.00	\$298,880.89
District of Logan Lake	\$15,489.14	\$557,462.23	0	\$572,951.37
Village of Lumby	\$9,005.76	\$18,608.57	0	\$27,614.33
Village of Lytton	\$2,582.16	\$6,751.94	0	\$9,334.10
City of Merritt	\$175,285.86	\$185,441.36	\$2,520.62	\$363,247.84
Village of Nakusp	\$37,322.97	\$59,220.12	\$1,154.58	\$97,697.67
City of Nelson	\$2,565,560.40	\$523,393.86	0	\$3,088,954.26
Village of New Denver	\$9,648.12	\$9,694.90	0	\$19,343.02
North Okanagan Regional District	0	\$14,287.00	0	\$14,287.00
District of Peachland	\$30,489.84	\$42,551.18	0	\$73,041.02
Village of Radium Hot Springs	\$28,332.53	\$52,235.95	0	\$80,568.48
City of Revelstoke	\$596,994.58	\$3,883,707.09	\$520.00	\$4,481,221.67
City of Salmon Arm	\$241,395.11	\$276,793.82	\$8,333.73	\$526,522.66
District of Sicamous	\$38,266.85	\$56,435.06	0	\$94,701.91
Village of Silverton	\$1,361.04	\$2,955.79	0	\$4,316.83
Township of Spallumcheen	\$180,115.20	\$97,673.89	0	\$277,789.09
District of Sparwood	\$249,259.85	\$236,590.12	0	\$485,849.97
Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality	\$6,690.72	\$37,988.47	0	\$44,679.19
Village of Valemout	\$14,688.51	\$530,388.17	0	\$545,076.68
City of Vernon	\$796,562.80	\$1,051,342.39	\$(4.72)	\$1,847,900.47
City of West Kelowna	\$259,103.99	\$411,886.99	\$3,505.64	\$674,496.62

\* Local governments collect school taxes which are then forwarded to the provincial government to help fund school districts.

## Community Grants

By supplying electricity to the people and businesses of this province, we provide an essential and important service. But we also believe in doing more than that. We're offering two types of grants to support non-profit organizations and registered charities that are making a difference in their communities. In 2022, we supported over 60 community-based projects across every region of the province.

Our grants are given out in three focus areas: building the STEM workforce of tomorrow, safety education, and developing a clean and sustainable future. When planning for your project, please keep in mind that our grants have set criteria and application deadlines.

To learn more, please select [bchydro.com/grants](https://bchydro.com/grants).

Some of the organizations that we supported in the region this past year included:

Applicant	Project	Community	Grant
<b>Enderby and District Recreation Services Association</b>	Shuswap River Ambassadors	Enderby, Ashton Creek, Kingfisher, Mabel Lake, Grindrod, Mara	\$5,000
<b>EUReKA! Science Program</b>	EUReKA! InSTEM	Kamloops, Thompson-Nicola Region	\$8,000
<b>Wildsight Revelstoke</b>	Water Stewards of Tomorrow	Revelstoke	\$3,000
<b>Wildsight (Regional)</b>	Girls on Ice- Kootenay Expedition	Nelson, Columbia Basin region	\$4,000
<b>Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network</b>	Wild Voices for Kids	Invermere, Columbia Basin region	\$5,000
<b>Robson Fire and Rescue Society</b>	Rope Rescue PPE	Robson	\$2,000
<b>Community Safety Net</b>	Castlegar Fire Safety Program	Castlegar	\$2,000
<b>Cranbrook Community Forest Society</b>	CCF Trail Maintenance Project	Cranbrook	\$1,000
<b>Wildsight Elk Valley</b>	Little Sprouts	Fernie	\$500
<b>Columbia Lake Stewardship Society</b>	Columbia Lake Biomonitoring and Environmental Education	Canal Flats to Fairmont Hot Springs along the Columbia Lake, within Areas F and G	\$2,000
<b>Castlegar Parks and Trails Society</b>	Maintenance Trail Crew Labourer Training	Castlegar	\$2,000
<b>East Kootenay Regional Science Fair</b>	East Kootenay Regional Science Fair	Fernie, Sparwood, Elko, Cranbrook, Kimberley, Invermere, Golden	\$2,000
<b>Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society</b>	CSISS Invasive Species Youth	Revelstoke, Golden, Trout Lake, Parson, Nicholson, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Malakwa, Sorrento, Falkland, Blind Bay, Scotch Creek, Celistia, Seymour Arm	\$2,000
<b>Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society</b>	Conservation Through Education	Enderby	\$500
<b>Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society</b>	Columbia River Headwater Lakes Monitoring and Education	Invermere, Windermere, Spillimacheen, Canal Flats	\$1,936
<b>Blue Lake Forest Education Society</b>	Get STEMulated	Cranbrook, the East Kootenay School Districts 5 and 6	\$750

# Reliability Performance



We recognize how important the reliable supply of electricity is to our customers. We'll continue to improve, reinforce and maintain the electrical system.

The information below provides a comparison between Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2022 for communities in the Southern Interior region. These statistics include interruptions due to planned outages.

Community	Fiscal 2022 average customer interruption duration (hours)	Fiscal 2021 average customer interruption duration (hours)	Fiscal 2022 average number of interruptions per customer	Fiscal 2021 average number of interruptions per customer
Cache Creek	3.81	2.08	4.58	5.06
Canal Flats	0.18	2.08	1.03	5.32
Cranbrook	2.12	3.81	1.67	1.46
Elkford	3.99	4.08	5.67	5.57
Fernie	1.56	1.89	3.34	4.53
Golden	3.85	3.31	11.65	3.41
Invermere	0.95	1.46	4.70	3.43
Kamloops	2.79	1.92	2.21	2.22
Kimberley	2.00	2.70	1.02	1.49
Merritt	14.03	2.88	2.63	1.57
Nakusp	6.30	4.28	3.69	9.29
New Denver	1.44	5.85	0.63	7.00
Radium Hot Springs	0.92	1.78	5.28	5.03
Revelstoke	2.47	3.52	6.92	1.00
Salmon Arm	2.35	1.95	4.72	4.65
Sparwood	3.48	0.99	3.74	3.51
Valemount	2.01	6.42	12.92	5.76
Vernon	5.65	2.64	3.27	2.53

# BC Hydro Community Relations

At BC Hydro we build strong relationships to support the unique needs and strengths of the communities we serve. Our Community Relations team does this by listening, providing information and working together with communities. Community Relations is the point of contact for local government, media, local business and community groups. Whether it's for regional capital projects, corporate initiatives and programs, local BC Hydro activities, significant planned outages, emergency response or unplanned power outages, we work hard to meet the needs of our stakeholders and ensure communities are kept informed.

## Southern Interior

If you have questions or comments for us, please contact:

<b>Vernon Office</b> Dag Sharman Manager, Community Relations 250 549 8531 <a href="mailto:dag.sharman@bchydro.com">dag.sharman@bchydro.com</a>	<b>Castlegar Office</b> Mary Anne Coules Stakeholder Engagement Advisor 250 365 4565 <a href="mailto:maryanne.coules@bchydro.com">maryanne.coules@bchydro.com</a>	<b>Vernon Office</b> Dave Cooper Public Affairs Officer 250 306 9826 <a href="mailto:david.cooper@bchydro.com">david.cooper@bchydro.com</a>
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## BC Hydro Guide for Local Government

Quick access to key information on [bchydro.com](http://bchydro.com)

<b>My Hydro and Energy Savings initiatives</b>	
<b>My Hydro</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/myhydro/">bchydro.com/myhydro/</a>	Log in to manage your account.
<b>Energy Savings Programs</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/energysavings">bchydro.com/energysavings</a>	Learn how you can be smart with your power. Take advantage of rebates and programs.
<b>Projects</b>	
<b>Capital Projects</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/projects">bchydro.com/projects</a>	Learn more about major projects taking place in your region.
<b>Programs</b>	
<b>Decorative Wrap Grant Program</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/wraps">bchydro.com/wraps</a>	Learn about our program that provides financial assistance to municipal governments looking to install decorative wraps on BC Hydro pad-mounted equipment boxes.
<b>Community ReGreening Program</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/regreening">bchydro.com/regreening</a>	The regreening program assists municipalities with urban tree planting while helping to make sure appropriate trees are planted around power lines.
<b>Community Giving</b>	
<b>Grants for community groups</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/grants">bchydro.com/grants</a>	Learn about our grants for community groups and how to apply for them.
<b>Scholarships &amp; Endowments</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/scholarships">bchydro.com/scholarships</a>	We look to build the next generation of engineers, electricians, and many other key roles who will help us deliver clean energy to our customers. Learn about our scholarships and endowments.
<b>Electric vehicles</b>	
<b>Fast charging stations</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/ev">bchydro.com/ev</a>	Learn more about how clean and affordable power makes B.C. a great fit for electric vehicles.
<b>Report an outage</b>	
<b>How to report a power outage</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/outages">bchydro.com/outages</a>	Check the outage map or list to see if we know your power is out. If not, call us at 1 800 BCHYDRO (1 800 224 9376) or *HYDRO (*49376) on your mobile phone to report it.
<b>Report graffiti</b>	
<b>How to report graffiti on our equipment</b> <a href="http://bchydro.com/graffiti">bchydro.com/graffiti</a>	We rely on the public to report graffiti on everything from our pad-mounted transformer boxes to our buildings.

